Provided that the State Commission or the National Commission or the Supreme Court, as the case may be, may entertain an appeal after the expiry of the said period of thirty days, if it is satisfied that the appellant had sufficient cause for not preferring the appeal within the period of thirty days."

2. I am, therefore, to return herewith the said Bill in accordance with the provisions of rule 121 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha with the request that the concurrence of Rajya Sabha in the said amendments be communicated to Lok Sabha."

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I lay a copy of the Bill on the Table.

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION

On serious situation arising out of deterioration of finances of the States and unsustainable debt burden of such *States*—*Contd.*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma. He is not present. Shri Javare Gowda. He is also not present. Shri N.K. Premachandran. You have got five minutes.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (Kerala): Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman, for giving me this opportunity to participate in the discussion on the debt position and financial status of the States. It is an admitted fact that the fiscal position of the States is very alarming. I am shocked to note that as on 31st March, 1999, the total debts of the States stood at Rs.4,00,754 crores. It had gone up to Rs.4,73,677 crores in one year. There was an escalation of Rs.73,000 crores in the case of debts. It shows the real picture of the financial status of our country. How do we contain it? That is the main point of today's discussion. Sir, the discussion was initiated by the learned Member, Shri Pranab Mukherjee. The immediate causes of this debt of the States have been mentioned here. But the remedies are still in the dark. What is the real case of debt? What is the real cause of this economic crisis throughout the country which is being faced by the Union as well as the States? That is the cardinal point which has to be taken into consideration.

Sir, the fiscal crisis or the fiscal deficit is definitely going to have an impact on the finances of the States. What has happened to the dream Budget of the former Finance Minister? What has happened to the growth of our economy in the last three or four years? I am not going into the percentage and statistics. Everybody will admit the fact that the economy has collapsed. Definitely, the fiscal crisis or the fiscal deficit has made an impact on the economy and finances of the States. It has made an impact on all the States. Rajasthan, Orissa, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and all the other States have been affected by it. Most of the States have issued White Papers. The State of Kerala had issued a White Paper immediately after the new Government led by Shri A.K. Antony came to power. The Government of Karnataka has also issued a White Paper on the economy of the State. It shows that the external and internal situation is very alarming. It is an accepted fact that the recommendation of the Fifth Pay Commission have cast financial burden on the States. We all agree with it.

So far as borrowings are concerned, the State Government of Kerala is having negotiations with the ADB to get a loan of Rs. 3,500 crores. What are the conditions stipulated? I do not know what conditions have been stipulated to get loan from the ADB. That is still in the dark. It was reported in the newspapers that it was being done for the purpose of economic reforms. We are taking loan from the external agencies, financial agencies and the ADB to carry out structural reforms in the economy, to make structural changes in the Electricity Boards, to make structural changes in the Water Authorities and other areas, but not to implement some schemes or some projects. That is the policy which the State Governments are pursuing. Maybe, they are forced to do it. There should be a uniform policy so far as borrowings are concerned. Now negotiations are going on with the ADB.

Sir, heavy interest is being imposed on the States by the Centre.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): Please conclude.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: I am concluding. Sir, nobody is present except me from the group of 'Others'.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): That is not the point. We have taken a decision to finish it now. You cannot take so much time. There is no system of transferring the time.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Sir, I would conclude in two or three minutes.

So far as interest burden on States is concerned, it should be reconsidered and reviewed by the Government. Then, devolution of financial powers to the States should also be taken into consideration. So far as small savings are concerned, I would like to make a suggestion. There is no provision by which the NRIs can invest money in small savings. Therefore, a scheme should be formulated so that the NRIs could be attracted to deposit money in small savings.

As I have already mentioned, so far as economic reforms are concerned, we are passing on to the second phase. Whether these reforms would suit our economy or not, that is the point which should be considered, again and again. I would like to cite one example. Shri V.V. Raghavan was just now talking about the economy of the State of Kerala. We do not have big industries. We are mainly dependent on coconut, rubber, spices and other agricultural products. If the price of coconut decreases by Rs. 2/- or Rs. 1.50/-. it would have a lot of impact on the coconut industry and it would affect the economy, as a whole. So far as rubber is concerned, I admit there is some improvement. Sir, due to the Exim policy, the agriculture sector has suffered a lot and as a result, the economy of the States has also suffered. Then, as far as the Eleventh Finance Commission is concerned, when we look at its recommendations, we find that those States which have performed well in the past decades, have been punished. Sir, we all know that Kerala has 100 per cent literacy. But we do not have centres of excellence, like the Indian Institute of Technology or the Indian Institute of Management, in spite of having 100 per cent literacy rate. This should also be taken into account while allocation is made.

Sir, I would like to end by giving certain suggestions. There should be a uniform policy on collection of taxes, a uniform policy on borrowings; and there should also be a justifiable distribution of Centre's funds amongst various States. I would also suggest that we should unearth black money and realise the non-performing assets, so that this deficit problem that we are facing can be overcome, to some extent. Also, as regards the relief measures, norms have been changed, in the matter of release of the Calamity Relief Fund. This aspect should also be taken care of. With these words, I conclude.

[THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN IN THE CHAIR.]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): Sir, I am very grateful that this discussion has taken place. I am also grateful to the hon. Members for the very valuable contribution they have made. Almost every hon. Member who participated in the discussion, emphasised the vital importance of the finances of the States. The second thing that ran through almost every Member's intervention was that it was very important that we approached the issue of State- finances co-operatively, constructively and with the Union Government and the States working together. The third thought which ran through the sentiments, as a common strand, was that there was a need to evolve a consensus on practical economic issues that confront the country. Accepting that, ideologically, it might not be possible to arrive at one economic conviction or one economic policy, nevertheless, the challenge of today requires that -- whether it is between the Centre and the States or between the political parties -- on an issue as important and as vital as the state of health of the economy of the country, we arrive at a working consensus. Above all, I wish to state two facts here. One is that the very first security of our country, without which all securities become questionable, is economic security. If a nation does not have economic security, no other kind of security will stand as certainly, as surely, in nation's health, and the nation cannot have economic security if the constituent elements of the nation, which are the States of the Union, one or another or jointly, are enfeebled. The second thing I wish to share is this. I should also mention that I am honoured, also somewhat flattered, when hon. Shri Pranab Mukherje~e referred to me a federal Finance Minister; that is correct. It is recognition of a reality. On a different subject, yesterday, in the other House, I had occasion to say, that, as Finance Minister of the country, I approached my responsibility with humility, but with no political particularism in mind. I endeavour to answer the challenges of today as objectively and as dispassionately, as the economic condition demands. And when the hon. Member, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, referred to me as the Federal Finance Minister, I am, of course, honoured and flattered. But I wish to assure you, Sir, that is exactly how I wish to address this responsibility. I won't not take too much time.

The ills have been identified by most Members. Particularly, after the very learned, very exhaustive and comprehensive intervention that was made by the initiator of the discussion, there is little else that I can add to

the analysis of the ills that afflict us today. But I am under an obligation to respond to certain specific issues that were raised.

Both Shri Pranab Mukherjee and Shri Nilotpal Basu spoke of the level of State overdrafts. Shri Nilotpal Basu suggested that this is not satisfactory, and that the States should have a certain degree of freedom. Now, this, as Pranabbabu knows, is in accordance with a formula; and that formula is not of my making. This formula was put in place by the Committee of State Finance Secretaries. And it is, in fact, organised by the Reserve Bank of India, and it has an in-built system both of limit per annum, as also of readdressing the requirements. A suggestion was made by Shri Nilotpal Basu that the States should be entitled, just as the Centre is, to unlimited overdrafts. I have some very serious difficulty in accepting this suggestion, not because....

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU (West Bengal): Sir, I did not mention unlimited'. I said 'just a little flexibility' or 'greater flexibility'.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I understand. I correct myself. It is not 'unlimited'. And I don't say that this is on account of any superior ability that the Central Government has, or an inferior approach or a lesser approach, to issues of economic responsibility, that the States have. But this is a system that we have ourselves put in place. It is a constitutional system. After all, if one were to draw an analogy between the Centre and the State, it would be an incorrect analogy -- I might submit with respect --because the Centre is the ultimate borrower or lender of the last resort. I might share with you that even after the States have exceeded their overdrafts, they can still come to the Centre, and the Centre has to come to their assistance. The Centre, as yet, has never exceeded the limits that it has set for itself, though it can; there is no constitutional bar to it. But, as to flexibility in the circumstances, I do agree; we do need to address this issue. And, when I come in a minute to the Committee of State Chief Ministers, I will, very broadly, outline the issues that we are going to consider. This is one of them that we will take up.

Shri C. Ramachandraiah is not here. He had some difficulties, and he mentioned the medium-term fiscal reform programme, cap on Stata borrowings, etc. We have no difficulty about States having flexibility to borrow under SLR or non-SLR, as long as it is within the cap. Another issue on which we are going to sit, and think seriously, is -- we have worked out a great deal of it - debt swapping. I will come to it in a minute.

Dr. Subbarami Reddy said that, now, after the Eleventh Finance Commission, devolution to States has come down. This is factually incorrect. The devolution has gone up, not come down; and we are now speaking of a devolution of 29.5 per cent, as against the earlier devolution, which was at 28 per cent.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, not after the Eleventh Finance Commission, but this year. The devolution has changed not because of the Eleventh Finance Commission.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I will come to it in a minute. There was a point raised by hon. Pranabbabu. If the Centre's collection of revenue falls, then, the Centre has the responsibility because, in effect, you are causing --•rtot because you wish to, even if inadvertently -- a damaging consequence to the State finances because of the devolution that must take place. I accept that. I am going to come to it in a minute. Hon. Abrar Ahmed is not here. उन्होने कुछ बातें कहीं है, उसमं से एक-दो निवेदन मे करूंगा। उन्होंने कहा एक तो तरफदारी नहीं होनी चहिए। इसके बारे में मैं सदन में कह चुका हूं, तरफदारी किस बात की, तरफदारी क्यों, क्या तरफदारी हम करें? दूसरे, उन्होने कहा कि राजस्थान प्रदेश में, राजस्थान प्रदेश से मैं हूं। यहां एक चर्चा हुई थी, माननीय अबरार थे नहीं। मैंने कहा था कि मैं राजस्थान मे जम्मा गाँव मे बड़ा हुमा वही पला इस नौकरी के मिलने के बाद अब राजस्थान का अंग हूं। एक, आपत्ति मुझे अबरार अहमद के उल्लेख से है जब उन्होंने कहा कि राजस्थान जिहड़ा प्रदेश है और राजस्थान भूखे प्रदेश है। राजस्थान में और कई कमिंया हो सकती है, लेकिन राजस्थान पिछड़ा नहीं है और राजस्थान भूखा नहीं है। मैं बड़े अदब से उनसे अर्ज करना चाहूंगा। ... (व्यवधान)..

उपसभापति : वे आ गए हैं।

श्री जसवंत सिहं : मैं इसको दोहराऊंगा नहीं।

उपसभापति : वे खुद राजस्थान के हैं, पिछडे हुए हैं या वे भूखे हैं, यह मालूम नहीं। ... (व्यवधान)...

श्री जसवंत सिंह : माननीय अबरार जी ने कहा कि केन्द्र ने राजस्थान प्रदेश को सुखे के लिए कोई मदद नहीं की है। इस प्रकार की अतिश्योक्ति अक्सर जब हम राजनीतिक धाराप्रवाह में आ जाते हैं तो करते हैं। ...(व्यवधान)... मैं आपको बता देता हूं कि कितनी मदद हुई। और राजस्थान को पिछले तीन सालों में कैलेमेटीज रिलीफ फंड से सूखे के हिसाब से 403.83 करोड रूपया दिया गया।इसके अलावा अतिरिक्त 164 करोड़ रूपया नेशनल कैलेमिटी कन्टेंजेंसी फंड से दिया गया। इसके अलावा राजस्थान को नीड बेरूड एंडवांस जो होते है, रिलीफ वर्कस ताकि प्रभावित न हों,वे दिए गए है। गया इसके अलावा जितना फूड ग्रेन राजस्थान उठा सकेगा, सूखें के हिसाब से वह राजस्थान को दिया गया। इसमें कोई कमी नहीं आने दी। सभी प्रदेशों के साथ ऐसा ही है। बिहार की कुछ बातें माननीय प्रणब जी ने भी कही, बिहार प्रदेश के

सद्स्यों ने भी कही। All that I can say, Madam, is that my approach to Bihar is not discriminatory. I am bound by certain regulations and stipulations of the Finance Commissioh. But, if the Finance Minister of Bihar or the Finance Secretary of Bihar were to be deputed, I assure you that whatever is legally due to Bihar would be paid to Bihar. Whenever the Finance Secretary comes, it will not take me more than a week to settle this issue.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : I need just a minute. Mr. Minister, I would appeal to you, because it is not legally due. When Jharkhand was created out of Bihar, it was pointed out that Bihar would be economically in a very difficult situation. So, a demand for Rs.1,89,000 crores was made. Naturally, that astronomical figure could not be acceded to, and, hence, subsequently, it was modified. In a memorandum submitted to the Prime Minister, a demand to the extent of Rs.40,0O0 crores was made. I remember, you had agreed to it. If my memory serves me right, you have released Rs.255 crores up to this year. So, if you can expand it a little more it, the State can overcome the problems. It is absolutely within your power, depending on the availability of resources.

Secondly, now that the Panchayat elections have been held, could you release the withheld money, which, I understand is, Rs. 400 odd crores?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Madam, there are two aspects. Firstly, consequent upon the coming into existence of Jharkhand, on account of division of assets, etc., certain compensatory payments became due to Bihar, and there should be a trans-payment to Bihar on that account this year. Yes; we will get it done, certainly.

Secondly, on account of local bodies election difficulties, certain payments were to be made, but, subject to that, without standing on trivial legalities, according to my Ministry's calculations, a sum of Rs. 160 odd crores becomes due to Bihar. And, I assure you that I have no difficulty. If the Finance Secretary of Bihar were to visit Delhi, and I will make him sit with the officers of the Ministry of Finance, and it would be resolved within a week's time. *(Interruptions)*

I don't want to take the time of the House by reanalysing what almost every Member has analysed, as to what is the state of finances and what we have done. As I said just last evening, in the other House, I am adult enough to know the realities of life. I, therefore, accept that the world is not as it ought to be; the world is as it. is; and I have inherited the world

as it is. Therefore, I have to work, in that world, not in an ideal world. In that situation, Madam, I believe, I need not go into the background of the profligacy of approach on the recommendations of the Pay Commission and the consequence of it on the finances, not just of the Union Government, but, indeed, of every State Government. It is true that there are 3tates who are, today, spending almost 80% of what goes by the name of Plan allocation, if not more, just on meeting the revenue expenditure of the State, on salary.

Pranab Babu read out that passage from the Planning Commission document, it is not a passage that delights anybody. It is not a passage with an expression of exaltation. It is a passage of realism, which, I believe, for the first time, has pointed out that this is what is happening. We have, all of us, without exception, brought about this situation, because of competitive and unchecked populism. I think there was a phrase used here, 'you have brought too much politics in economics and too little economic thought into political conduct.' It needs to be reversed. Can it be done overnight? No, I don't think so. I am very glad that this discussion has taken place. It was a discussion of very high importance. If the States' finances we are able to cure, we will be taking a major joint step towards this. Without any monitoring, we are all guilty of profligate expenditure in the grace of declining revenues. I am not going into the declining revenues or what percentages of the GDP. I am really sitting in front here now up to very experienced economists. So, I say this as a non-economist, with a great degree of repetition, I do not think fault can be found with the formulation of tax policy. A sufficient thought has gone into policy formulation, policy thinking and in taxation matters that I think has reached a point where there is very little that can be put there by way of improvement in terms of thought of policy. What has not kept pace is really the tax administration. If we are to address ourselves to tax administration, whether it is tax administration here at the Central level or whether it is at the State level, I do believe that we will be addressing and we will be putting our finger on the crux of the problem. I again say this with a great degree of trepidation , as a non-economist - but I am addressing it in that form and I felt considerable rewarded and satisfied when the long serpentine queues for the Permanent Account Numbers or settlements or filing claims or returns, etc., required the Ministry of Finance to extend the last date of filing returns by nine days. That to my mind, is not a negative but it is some movement forward. But at the present moment, is tax satisfactory to the ratio of the GDP? No, it is not. We must improve it. Let us try

improving the tax administration in its totality. When I say the tax administration I am really referring to all aspects, all shortcomings of the tax administration. We have limited resources on account of which is an area of concern to me is very declining capital investment. Asset creation is a consequence of capital investment. We are particularly in States witnessing an absence of investment. An absence of investment is really mortgaging the future. When I look at the profile of investment in the States, when I see that there is now emerging in our federation a disproportion of investment -- some of it is inevitable between coastal India and hinterland India. And it is proportion of investment, capital formation, this is an area that we are seized of because some States are receiving and are paying a much greater attention than other States are. I do not wish to go into the listing of the States. But there has to be a greater awareness in the State itself of not to be left behind in this process and enter into this rather a competitive environment. Madam, we have to staunch this haemorrhage and see what our priorities are. I am not approaching this issue with any ideological baggage. I am approaching this issue as a practical problem and to be attempted to be resolved with as much consensus on practical economic fiscal steps, and not attempting to arrive at an ideological unity which is impossible. So, let us try and work out, at least, some practical steps for a consensus so that we can say, 'Well, these four or five steps we could take.'

The fundamentals have to be approached. And, therefore - I borrow, again, this very flattering phrase of Pranabbabu's -- as a federal Finance Minister, I had my first interaction with the Committee of Finance Ministers. There are two Committees. The first one is addressing itself to the important aspect of Value Added Tax. Pranabbabu talked about the Consignment Tax. Unless we have the VAT, the whole issue, of services being drawn unto it, equalisation of tax regime, what to do in place of Octroi, which is really Consignment Tax, will not be resolved. Some States have apprehensions; 'In switching over from what is today to VAT tomorrow, are we likely to lose something, and if we lose something, who will then stand up for us and compensate us?' I think, the Central Government has to stand up, with the States, sit with the Central Ministers. So, we instituted the Committee, which is only of the Finance Ministers. I am informed by them that they had done about 98 per cent of their work. I am not pushing them. I am glad that they have arrived a consensuous bag of solutions, themselves. I am not pushing them, on time. I am waiting for them to complete their job. We were earlier scheduled to meet

tomorrow, the 2 August, 2002. Because of certain Parliamentary pressures, I have requested for the postponement of this by just one week, to meet on the 9^{lh} August. There is a second Committee. And I am flattered that the Finance Ministers of the States asked me to Chair the second Committee. We have agreed on the composition of it. I have no difficulty if the State Finance Ministers wish to have more Finance Ministers in it. What are we addressing in this? We will address questions like how to mitigate the pressure of the recommendations of the last Pay Commission's Report. We have some ideas which we have already thought about. In this Committee of State Finance Ministers, once we arrive at some consensus, we have intentions of recommending to the hon. Prime Minister to call a meeting of Chief Ministers of all the States so that whatever we are able to recommend is then approved by the Chief Ministers. We wish to approach this as an exercise in which everyone has a say, everyone is a partner, and everyone is committed to achieving those objectives, without one or the other trying to play politics on the issue. So, one is about the Pay Commission.

The other very important issue is about debt swapping. As the Finance Ministry, we have set that in motion. I accept that. If the interest rates are softer, why should States be saddled with the highest interest rates? We have almost completed the exercise, in an orderly fashion; how to arrange for this debt swapping so that the States are able to retire that high interest or high cost debts and are able to take up lower cost debts. This also, I hope, we will be able to finalise at the State Finance Ministers' meeting.

The third that we hope to be able to finalise, in this very meeting - because the Report of the other State Finance Ministers' meeting would have come to us -- is the question of Value Added Tax. Fourthly, Shri Asim Dasgupta, the Finance Minister of West Bangal had said that we need to approach this issue and the limitations that the Reserve Bank has placed on the access to finance that the States have. We will approach it with a very practical approach in our mind. We do not have any intention to cause any inconvenience to any States. All citizens of the Union of India are the responsibility of the Finance Ministry of India. There cannot be any distinction between one citizen and the other. Certainly not, on any caste, gender, religion, faith, which State you belong to or what political persuasions you subscribe. You cannot have an economy or the management of the Finance Ministry in a manner that a particular policy will

apply to a particular region or State. These are broadly the four issues that the State Finance Ministers shall be addressing. We hope to be able to arrive at a very quick conclusion, because we have already met once. We do not want to have endless Committee meetings. These are the four issues. We have thought about these four issues. These are not new issues. It is not as if there is an endless menu of options available. There are limited options. You must take a decision, and then go to the Prime Minister, request him to call all the Chief Ministers. All the States of the Union will be called in that meeting. We will try and find an answer to these issues, I hope very much, before the end of September. Once those recommendations are made, the Parliament is free to discuss those as much as the Parliament should desire. Now, I am not going into another detailed analysis or about the economic aspects of the finances of States, because I do believe that the first requirement is to somehow staunch the haemorrhage that continues on a daily basis. Once we are able to control this continuous bleeding of the finances, we can address ourselves to some of the more substantial issues. I am very grateful to hon. Members who have participated in today's discussion, and have benefited me with their advice. I am certainly better educated on the subject. I am very grateful to all of them. Thank you very much, Madam.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: The hon. Finance Minister said that I had said that devolution of share of the Central Taxes has reduced. I did not say that. I merely said that the Finance Commission was not helping much, and during this year's one of the four core problems is how to compensate the shortfall in the devolution of the Central Taxes.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay, now the matter is corrected. Now, I have legislative business.

श्री सुरेश पचौरी (मध्य प्रदेश) **:** मैडम, हाउस एडजोर्न कराइए। ... (**व्यवधान**)... सदन के नेता को भी जरूरी मीटिंग में जाना हैं। ...(**व्यवधान**)...

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : Still some time is left. We can just begin and *...(Interruptions)*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: May I make a request that we have been doing..*(Interruptions)...* Tomorrow we are having Private Members' Business. We must pass some legislation. *(Interruptions)*

श्री सुरेश पचौरी : यह तो तय भी हुआ है कि आज मेंबर्स का ही बिजनेस रखेंगे। कॉलिंग अटेंशन के बाद शॉर्ट डयूरेशन डिस्कसन .... (**व्यवधान**)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am not saying now. On some other day, we can sit for a little more time, and finish the business because I don't think there would be much problem.

श्री मूल चन्द मीणा (राजस्थान) **:** मैंडम, सारे सदस्य चाहते हैं कि आज हाउस 6 बजे तक चले।

श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया : मैडम, आज खाली यही शॉर्ट डयूरेशन डिस्कसन खत्म करना था। ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री सुरेश पचौरी : मैंडम, इस के लिए कई मेंबर्स ने अपना नाम भी विदड्रा किया है।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am not disputing about what transpired while I was not here. I just want to suggest to the House -- Mr. Pranab Mukherjee would agree with me -- that the basic business of the House is to legislate. So, somehow, we should do some legislative business. That is my only suggestion to the House. It may not be today only, but we have to do it some other day. We should do such legislative work which is not very controversial. We can do it later. *{Interruptions)*

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Madam, as far as this week's business is concerned, we are already ahead of the schedule given to us by the Government.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This Bill is there in the today's List of Business. But, anyway, if the House so *agrees...(Interruptions)*

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Madam, it is listed in today's List of Business, but the understanding with the Government was that this would be passed only in the next week.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I go by what is given to me by the Secretariat. I don't know about the understanding between the Members and the Government, because I am not being informed about it, and it is not written here. Now, in view of the Members' desire, I adjourn the House till 11 a.m. tomorrow.

The House then adjourned at fifty-two minutes past five of the clock, till eleven of the clock on Friday, the 2nd August, 2002.